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editor: Jiří Loudín

redakce / editorial board:
vedoucí redaktor / editor-in-chief: Jiří Loudín (edist@site.cas.cz)
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Kabinet pro studium vědy, techniky a společnosti při FLÚ AV ČR

Jaroslav Anděl
DOX Praha

Gerhard Banse
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe
Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse, Karlsruhe

Adolf Filáček
Kabinet pro studium vědy, techniky a společnosti při FLÚ AV ČR

Daniel Just
Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht

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adresa / address:
Kabinet pro studium vědy, techniky a společnosti při Filosofickém ústavu AV ČR
Jilská 1, 110 00 Praha 1
tel: +420 / 222 220 107
fax: +420 / 222 220 725
e-mail: teorievedy@flu.cas.cz
url: http://teorievedy.flu.cas.cz

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Editorial

Referring to this double issue of the journal as "monothematic", when it covers such large areas as "culture, knowledge, technology, and innovation" may seem too presumptuous and unjustified. Such a broad problem demarcation may appear too heterogeneous and diffused to enable a focused research.

Yet the thematic extensity to be examined does not necessarily mean that it cannot represent a sufficiently delimitated research perspective. We consider our conceptual tetragon "Culture – Knowledge – Technology –Innovation" a heterogeneous but coherent whole. The fundamental elements of such a whole are bound together through a dense web of the mutual linkages and interactions. The functioning of one part of the system is conditioned by functioning of other parts; this inter-dependency is increasing.

This structured complex determines to a large extent the level and dynamics of economic and social life of both communities and societies. The whole and its parts develop and change continually, the process of permanent variation and reconfiguration is under way. Especially at the interfaces of specific actions and fields the new interactions, concepts, and practices arise and are established. In the recent period, such has been the case with concepts like knowledge society, technology assessment, social innovation, open innovation, innovation culture, knowledge-regions and -cities, knowledge management, etc. Several of them are addressed in this double issue.

That fact that knowledge, technology, and innovation play a crucial role in economic and social dynamics of society is obvious. A cultural thesis – an idea that culture is what eventually makes the difference with regards to the economic performance – is not new; it may be traced back

at least to Max Weber. In the last decades, a number of actors of different kinds – private and public, supra-national, national, and regional – have exerted a great effort to implement a bundle of institutional, organizational, and financial reforms in order to raise an economic and innovation level of their activities. The new managerial and technological tools have been employed in these activities. Yet, in spite of considerable similarity of the measures employed, their results are quite different in different cultural contexts, and it was this empirical observation that has brought the attention back to the phenomenon of culture. That is why so much research effort is focused on the question when and under what conditions does culture become a source for economy, technology, and innovations; when is culture socially activated and transformed into an effective tool of social development.

The contributions included into this double-issue are largely contextual analyses – i. e. the subject under examination is analysed in its relation to other phenomena and in interactions with its environment.

The recent development in the field of science policy may be denoted as cultural change. *Adolf Filáček* analyses the process of science policy integration in both horizontal and vertical dimensions, as science policy transcends national frontiers and, at the same time, it blends in with innovation, economic, cultural, and other sorts of policies.

The concepts of knowledge society or knowledge region denote communities in which knowledge play a crucial role. As *Josef Hochgerner* points out, knowledge in emerging knowledge society may paradoxically bring more uncertainty, as it is put under strict scrutiny and participates in generating continuous change: socio-economic change, cultural change, technology change. The expectations and meanings are also changing in knowledge society.

Jiří Loudín presents the conceptual framework of the project "From Imitations to Innovations as Social and Cultural Process", in which the Centre for STS studies at the Institute of Philosophy AS CR and the Wi-

ennese Centre for Social Innovation cooperate. Culture, knowledge, and innovation are identified as the key agents of the processes in question and their new modes of their interaction are the specific focus of inquiry.

Innovation processes as such are the key subject of the contribution by *Alex Kesselring*. He concentrates on social innovation that is basically conceived of as a new social practice. Kesselring finds a theoretical framework for social innovation studies in the Amitai Etzioni's theory of active society, which he discusses in this context.

When we mention the notion knowledge in this issue, it is always knowledge in the context of application/innovation. The practice of knowledge management is reflected in the paper by *Ladislav Tondl*. He explores the main motives and sources of this phenomenon especially from the perspective of the selection and integration of relevant knowledge and data.

Gerhard Banse and *Robert Hauser* introduce the interdisciplinary project on relations between technology and culture that has been launched at Karlsruher Institute of Technology recently. They describe both theoretical foundations and institutional background of the project.

The research field "Technology and Culture" has a long tradition. However, it gains a new impetus in the context of contemporary societies. *Michaela Pfadenhauer* argues that technical consumer goods may also be characterized by socio-technical qualities. Their ensuing analysis is performed from two perspectives of their cultural (contextualization in the world of meaning) and social (integration in posttraditional communities) potential.

The rapid pace of technological change may produce both resistance to the new technologies and nostalgia for the past (and the concomitant interest in technological museology). *Andreas Böhn* grasps this phenomenon and exemplifies it on the example of media technologies. The media develop their own way of nostalgia which is self-referential – they relate to different historic stages and versions of themselves. According to Böhn,

the media nostalgia may well coexist with openness to new technological developments.

Kurt Möser discusses three social constructions of historic mobility that determine what a historic vehicle is, what are its desired features, and what is to be done with it. Möser describes the specific characteristics of the three modes of interpretation, which are the historic museums, the company museums, and the private persons.

Mutual relations between ethics of technology and technology assessment are a topic of the article by *Petr Machleidt*. With the examples taken from Germany and the Czech Republic, he identifies both their identical and different points. He concludes by emphasizing the notion that scientific advisory system should comprise both its descriptive and prescriptive aspects.

Jakub Pechlát presents Prague as a knowledge region. He introduces persuasive findings and data for such a characteristic and informs about the City's development strategy in this field.

Karel Mráček pays attention to the fate of business research and development and innovation in the time of economic crisis. He analyses the entrepreneurial sphere with regards to the coping strategies it employs, and presents the findings from surveys conducted in the Czech Republic.

Michal Klodner and *Lucia Udvardyová* focus on the role of new media in higher education. In their research report, they inform about the results of a research project that was carried out by the Film and TV School at the Academy of Performing Arts.

Jiří Loudín (editor of the issue)